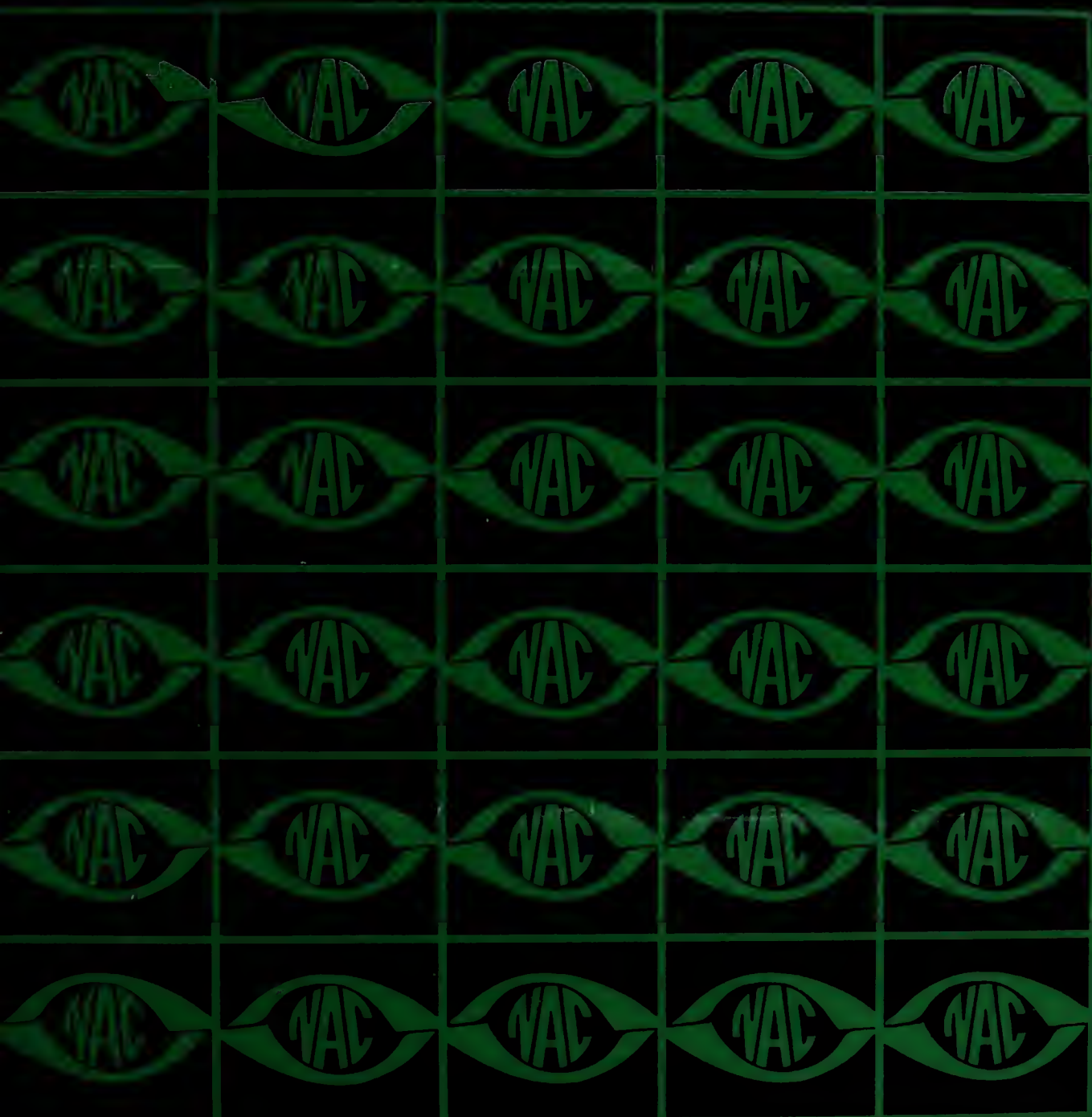


National Accreditation Council

for Agencies Serving the Blind & Visually Handicapped



Annual Report 1981-82

The Year in Review



As president and as executive director, we are pleased to report to you on the accomplishments of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC) during fiscal year 1982.

The number of accredited members continued to increase. During the year, NAC's Commission on Accreditation awarded accreditation to seven organizations, and reaccredited 15. All of these organizations conducted rigorous self-studies of their management and service programs, and were found to be in substantial compliance with NAC's standards. As of June 30, 1982, 90 agencies and schools were accredited. They served more than 230,000 persons, and spent close to 250 million dollars.

For the first time in over a decade, NAC held a seminar to train chairmen of on-site review teams. The seminar was especially designed for persons who chair teams that visit workshops offering vocational evaluation, training, and extended employment services to blind and multihandicapped blind persons. This area was chosen because more accredited members have workshops than any other major service. It was well-received and another seminar, for persons who chair teams reviewing residential schools for blind children, is planned for the coming year.

We continued to strengthen the standards used in accreditation to reflect current "best practice" in the field of services to the blind. During the year, we completed a project to review and revise the standards for rehabilitation centers. The updated standards, which will be published early in the coming year, give greater emphasis to the needs of multihandicapped blind adults undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation center training. Earlier this year, we published updated standards for Social Services and Production of Reading Materials, and new standards for Low Vision Services.

Today, more organizations than ever before are endorsing NAC's work. This year, the number of Sponsoring and Supporting members of NAC increased from 36 to 46. Sponsors and Supporters do a great deal to assist eligible organizations in attaining accredited status. In this context, we draw your attention to the exemplary activities undertaken this year by a NAC Sponsor, the American Foundation for the Blind, which are discussed elsewhere in this annual report.

The generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations, Sponsors and Supporters enabled NAC to achieve most of the year's objectives and enjoy a modest surplus of income over expenses. We thank them very much for their assistance.

We received \$498,556 in contributions, fees and dues, sales of publications and investment interest. We spent \$339,674 on our program services (accreditation, standards development, and advancement of standards), and \$109,974 on our support services (management and general and fund raising). Full details about NAC's finances can be found in the audited financial statement, which begins on the next page.

Our progress during the year occurred in a climate of unpredictability. With inflation, economic uncertainty and fierce competition for public and private funding, NAC is challenged to stay ahead of the times.

We are also being called upon to assist increasing numbers of organizations whose programs are being hurt by the changing environment. This is unfortunate, because in many respects, accredited agencies and schools for the blind have never been better. With quantum leaps in professionalism, technology and consumer involvement, we are seeing remarkable

effectiveness in services to blind people. But with rising costs and funding cutbacks, several of these organizations may be compelled to merge or close their doors.

NAC is helping. The role of accreditation has never been more important in preserving as well as strengthening these organizations. Thoughtful use of the accreditation process can mean the difference between a well-run, solvent organization and one that may collapse. If there ever was a time when an agency or school needed meaningful quality assurance and public accountability, that time is now.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who this year contributed their expertise and time serving on the Board of Directors, on the three Commissions and five standing committees, on national technical committees, and on on-site review teams. We also want to thank the NAC staff. We deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work of all these people.



Otis H. Stephens, Ph.D.



Richard W. Bleecker, Ed. D.



Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended June 30, 1982
(With Comparative Totals for 1981)

	1982			Total All Funds	
	Current Funds			1982	1981
	Unrestricted	Restricted (Note 3)	Equipment Fund		(Note 6)
Public support and revenue:					
Contributions	\$321,177	\$ 53,602		\$374,779	\$352,973
Revenue:					
Assessments and dues — member units	72,215			72,215	64,964
Interest	45,641			45,641	38,812
Publication sales	5,921			5,921	2,585
Total revenue	123,777			123,777	106,361
Total public support and revenue	444,954	53,602		498,556	459,334
Expenses:					
Program services:					
Develop standards	46,192	48,602	\$ 653	95,447	79,183
Advance standards	90,141	5,000	762	95,903	87,656
Accreditation	146,944		1,380	148,324	143,522
Total program services	283,277	53,602	2,795	339,674	310,361
Supporting services:					
Management and general	67,223		436	67,659	54,120
Fund raising	41,916		399	42,315	32,415
Total supporting services	109,139		835	109,974	86,535
Total expenses	392,416	53,602	3,630	449,648	396,896
Excess of public support and revenue over expenses	52,538	—	(3,630)	48,908	62,438
Other changes in fund balances:					
Equipment acquisitions from unrestricted funds	(17,342)		17,342		
	35,196		13,712	48,908	62,438
Fund balances at beginning of year, as previously reported	243,524		6,605	250,129	187,661
Restatement for change in accounting for compensated absences (Note 6)	(14,790)			(14,790)	(14,760)
Fund balances at beginning of year, as restated	228,734		6,605	235,339	172,901
Fund balances at end of year	\$263,930	\$ —	\$ 20,317	\$284,247	\$235,339

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 1982
(With Comparative Totals for 1981)

	1982				1981	
	Program Services				Supporting Services	
	Develop Standards	Advance Standards	Accreditation	Total	Management and General	Fund Raising
Salaries	\$ 55,441	\$ 55,171	\$ 87,340	\$197,952	\$ 32,635	\$ 25,467
Employee health and retirement benefits (Note 4)	5,446	6,353	11,497	23,296	7,631	3,328
Payroll taxes	3,424	3,995	7,229	14,648	2,283	2,092
Total salaries and related expenses	64,311	65,519	106,066	235,896	42,549	30,887
Occupancy	5,000	4,950	7,965	17,915	2,947	2,326
Telephone and telegraph	1,801	1,772	2,851	6,424	1,044	825
Conferences, conventions, meetings, and travel	11,686	10,783	17,364	39,833	16,065	1,411
Professional fees and contract service payments	1,882	2,072	4,229	8,183	1,734	4,034
Outside printing, art work, etc.	6,920	6,322	3,148	16,390	591	193
Postage and shipping	1,064	1,036	1,644	3,744	579	508
Dues, subscriptions, and reference publications	23	464	252	739	65	740
Supplies	1,820	1,941	3,095	6,856	1,099	865
Miscellaneous	287	282	330	899	550	127
Total functional expenses except depreciation	94,794	95,141	146,944	336,879	67,223	41,916
	653	762	1,380	2,795	436	399
	\$ 95,447	\$ 95,903	\$148,324	\$339,674	\$ 67,659	\$ 42,315

Balance Sheet June 30, 1982 and 1981

	1982	1981		1982	1981
		(Note 6)			(Note 6)
CURRENT FUNDS					
ASSETS			LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted					
Cash	\$ 41,498	\$ 30,985	Accounts payable	\$ 14,614	\$ 11,740
Commercial paper:			Accrued vacation pay	13,850	14,790
17.250%, due July 10, 1981		130,000	Payroll taxes payable		2,616
17.500%, due July 13, 1981		125,000	Due to current funds — restricted	11,000	49,602
13.375%, due July 14, 1982	135,000			<u>39,464</u>	<u>78,748</u>
14.000%, due July 21, 1982	100,000				
Accounts receivable	13,919	12,836	Fund balances:		
Pledges receivable	1,230		Designated by the Governing Board for long-term investment (Note 2)	248,476	213,476
Materials for sale or use — stated at the lower of cost or market	6,421	6,026	Undesignated, available for general activities	15,454	15,258
Other assets	5,326	2,635	Total fund balances	<u>263,930</u>	<u>228,734</u>
	<u>\$303,394</u>	<u>\$307,482</u>		<u>\$303,394</u>	<u>\$307,482</u>
Restricted (Note 3)					
Due from current funds — unrestricted	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 49,602</u>	Deferred revenue	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 49,602</u>
EQUIPMENT FUND					
Equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$4,670 and \$1,040	<u>\$ 20,317</u>	<u>\$ 6,605</u>	Fund balance	<u>\$ 20,317</u>	<u>\$ 6,605</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Board of Directors
National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the
Blind and Visually Handicapped
New York, New York

We have examined the balance sheet of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped as of June 30, 1982 and 1981, and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year ended June 30, 1982. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped at June 30, 1982 and 1981, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the year ended June 30, 1982, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis after restatement for the change, with which we concur, in the method of accounting for compensated absences as described in Note 6 to the financial statements.

August 4, 1982

Main Hurdman
MAIN HURDMAN

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Total Expenses	
1982	1981
	(Note 6)
\$256,054	\$229,835
34,255	29,137
19,023	15,755
309,332	274,727
23,188	20,693
8,293	6,996
57,309	47,974
13,951	11,100
17,174	17,909
4,831	4,683
1,544	1,898
8,820	9,505
1,576	621
446,018	396,106
3,630	790
<u>\$449,648</u>	<u>\$396,896</u>

Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended June 30, 1982
(With Comparative Totals for 1981)

	1982				
	Current Funds			Total All Funds	
	Unrestricted	Restricted (Note 3)	Equipment Fund	1982	1981
				(Note 6)	
Public support and revenue:					
Contributions	\$321,177	\$ 53,602		\$374,779	\$352,973
Revenue:					
Assessments and dues — member units	72,215			72,215	64,964
Interest	45,641			45,641	38,812
Publication sales	5,921			5,921	2,585
Total revenue	123,777			123,777	106,361
Total public support and revenue	444,954	53,602		498,556	459,334
Expenses:					
Program services:					
Develop standards	46,192	48,602	\$ 653	95,447	79,183
Advance standards	90,141	5,000	762	95,903	87,656
Accreditation	146,944		1,380	148,324	143,522
Total program services	283,277	53,602	2,795	339,674	310,361
Supporting services:					
Management and general	67,223		436	67,659	54,120
Fund raising	41,916		399	42,315	32,415
Total supporting services	109,139		835	109,974	86,535
Total expenses	392,416	53,602	3,630	449,648	396,896
Excess of public support and revenue over expenses	52,538	—	(3,630)	48,908	62,438
Other changes in fund balances:					
Equipment acquisitions from unrestricted funds	(17,342)		17,342		
	35,196		13,712	48,908	62,438
Fund balances at beginning of year, as previously reported	243,524		6,605	250,129	187,661
Restatement for change in accounting for compensated absences (Note 6)	(14,790)			(14,790)	(14,760)
Fund balances at beginning of year, as restated	228,734		6,605	235,339	172,901
Fund balances at end of year	\$263,930	\$ —	\$ 20,317	\$284,247	\$235,339

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 1982
(With Comparative Totals for 1981)

ended June 30, 1982

Comparative Totals for 1981)

	1982					
	Program Services				Supporting S	
	Develop Standards	Advance Standards	Accreditation	Total	Management and General	Fur Rals
Salaries	\$ 55,441	\$ 55,171	\$ 87,340	\$197,952	\$ 32,635	\$ 25,
Employee health and retirement benefits (Note 4)	5,446	6,353	11,497	23,296	7,631	3,
Payroll taxes	3,424	3,995	7,229	14,648	2,283	2,
Total salaries and related expenses	64,311	65,519	106,066	235,896	42,549	30,
Occupancy	5,000	4,950	7,965	17,915	2,947	2,
Telephone and telegraph	1,801	1,772	2,851	6,424	1,044	
Conferences, conventions, meetings, and travel	11,686	10,783	17,364	39,833	16,065	1,
Professional fees and contract service payments	1,882	2,072	4,229	8,183	1,734	4,
Outside printing, art work, etc.	6,920	6,322	3,148	16,390	591	
Postage and shipping	1,064	1,036	1,644	3,744	579	
Dues, subscriptions, and reference publications	23	464	252	739	65	
Supplies	1,820	1,941	3,095	6,856	1,099	
Miscellaneous	287	282	330	899	550	
Total functional expenses except depreciation	94,794	95,141	146,944	336,879	67,223	41,
Depreciation	653	762	1,380	2,795	436	
	\$ 95,447	\$ 95,903	\$148,324	\$339,674	\$ 67,659	\$ 42,

anying notes are an integral financial statements.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements

Balance Sheet June 30, 1982 and 1981

	1982	1981		1982	1981
		(Note 6)			(Note 6)
CURRENT FUNDS					
ASSETS			LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Cash	\$ 41,498	\$ 30,985	Accounts payable	\$ 14,614	\$ 11,740
Commercial paper:			Accrued vacation pay	13,850	14,790
17.250%, due July 10, 1981		130,000	Payroll taxes payable		2,616
17.500%, due July 13, 1981		125,000	Due to current funds — restricted	11,000	49,602
13.375%, due July 14, 1982	135,000			39,464	78,748
14.000%, due July 21, 1982	100,000				
Accounts receivable	13,919	12,836	Fund balances:		
Pledges receivable	1,230		Designated by the Governing Board for long-term investment (Note 2)	248,476	213,476
Materials for sale or use — stated at the lower of cost or market	6,421	6,026	Undesignated, available for general activities	15,454	15,258
Other assets	5,326	2,635	Total fund balances	263,930	228,734
	<u>\$303,394</u>	<u>\$307,482</u>		<u>\$303,394</u>	<u>\$307,482</u>
Restricted					
(Note 3)					
Due from current funds — unrestricted	\$ 11,000	\$ 49,602	Deferred revenue	\$ 11,000	\$ 49,602
	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 49,602</u>		<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 49,602</u>
EQUIPMENT FUND					
Equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$4,670 and \$1,040	\$ 20,317	\$ 6,605	Fund balance	\$ 20,317	\$ 6,605
	<u>\$ 20,317</u>	<u>\$ 6,605</u>		<u>\$ 20,317</u>	<u>\$ 6,605</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Board of Directors
National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the
Blind and Visually Handicapped
New York, New York

We have examined the balance sheet of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped as of June 30, 1982 and 1981, and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year ended June 30, 1982. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped at June 30, 1982 and 1981, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the year ended June 30, 1982, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis after restatement for the change, with which we concur, in the method of accounting for compensated absences as described in Note 6 to the financial statements.

August 4, 1982

Main Hurdman

MAIN HURDMAN

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

	Total Expenses	
	1982	1981
Total		(Note 6)
\$ 58,102	\$256,054	\$229,835
10,959	34,255	29,137
4,375	19,023	15,755
73,436	309,332	274,727
5,273	23,188	20,693
1,869	8,293	6,996
17,476	57,309	47,974
5,768	13,951	11,100
784	17,174	17,909
1,087	4,831	4,683
805	1,544	1,898
1,964	8,820	9,505
677	1,576	621
109,139	446,018	396,106
835	3,630	790
\$109,974	\$449,648	\$396,896

Notes to Financial Statements

1 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' industry audit guide for Audits of Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations.

All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Pledges for contributions are recognized in the accompanying statements as they are received.

The Council enjoys the participation of hundreds of blind and sighted persons who donate their services in a variety of ways. These volunteers assist the Council by serving as members of on-site review teams, on technical committees which develop and revise the standards used in accreditation, on its Board of Directors, and on its Commissions and standing committees. Because of the unique quality of the work involved, no objective basis is available to measure the value of donated services. Therefore, no amounts for donated services have been reflected in the accompanying financial statements. The amount of donated materials is not significant.

Materials for sale or use are stated at the lower of cost, on the first-in, first-out method, or market, which is in conformity with the revised Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations.

Equipment is stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets computed on the straight-line and accelerated methods.

2 — Board Designated Long-Term Investment

In the current period, the Governing Board has designated funds in the amount of \$35,000 for long-term investment. The aggregate of such funds designated by the Board is \$248,476 and \$213,476, respectively, at June 30, 1982 and 1981.

3 — Restricted Fund

Grants were received from a foundation and a corporation totaling \$70,000 during the years ended June 30, 1981 and 1980 for revision of standards. Of these grants, \$23,601, \$42,560 and \$2,839 was expended during the years ended June 30, 1982, 1981 and 1980, respectively, and the remaining \$1,000 was deferred to be applied in future fiscal years.

A grant of \$15,000 was received by the Council during the year ended June 30, 1980 for the purpose of the advancement of standards, of which \$11,250 and \$3,750 was expended during the years ended June 30, 1981 and 1980, respectively. An additional grant of \$15,000 was received by the Council during the year ended June 30, 1982, of which \$5,000 was expended during the year ended June 30, 1982 and the remaining \$10,000 was deferred to be applied in fiscal 1983.

Another grant of \$25,000 was received from a foundation during the year ended June 30, 1981 and was used during the year ended June 30, 1982 for revising standards for rehabilitation centers.

The Council received grants from three foundations and one corporation totaling \$75,000 during the years ended June 30, 1981, 1980 and 1979 to finance a two-year project to develop standards for low vision services. Of the preceding grants, \$36,394 and \$38,606 was expended in the years ended June 30, 1981 and 1980, respectively.

The unexpended balances of the foregoing grants, totaling \$11,000 and \$49,602 at June 30, 1982 and 1981, are reported as deferred revenue in the restricted fund for future use.

4 — Pension Plan

The Council provides pension benefits for eligible employees through the National Health and Welfare Mutual Life Insurance Association. These benefits cover all employees over 25 years of age with more than six months of service, and their cost is borne by the Council. The total expense to the Council for the years ended June 30, 1982 and 1981 was \$16,527 and \$13,814, respectively. There are no prior service costs. A contribution of \$4,000 was also made each year to a special retirement account for a former Executive Director.

5 — Leased Premises

The minimum rental commitment under a lease commencing July 1, 1978 for the Council's office space, excluding payments for utilities, is, for the year ending June 30, 1983, \$17,545.

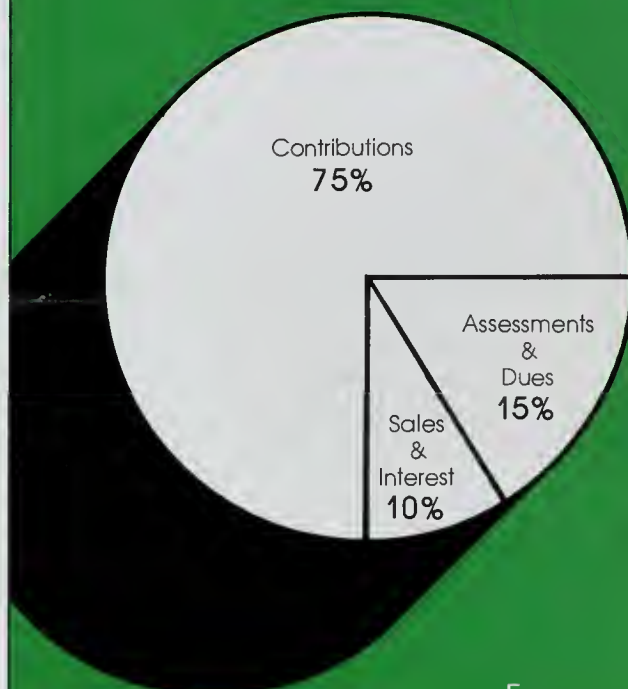
Rental costs aggregated \$23,188 and \$20,693 for the years ended June 30, 1982 and 1981, respectively.

6 — Accounting Change

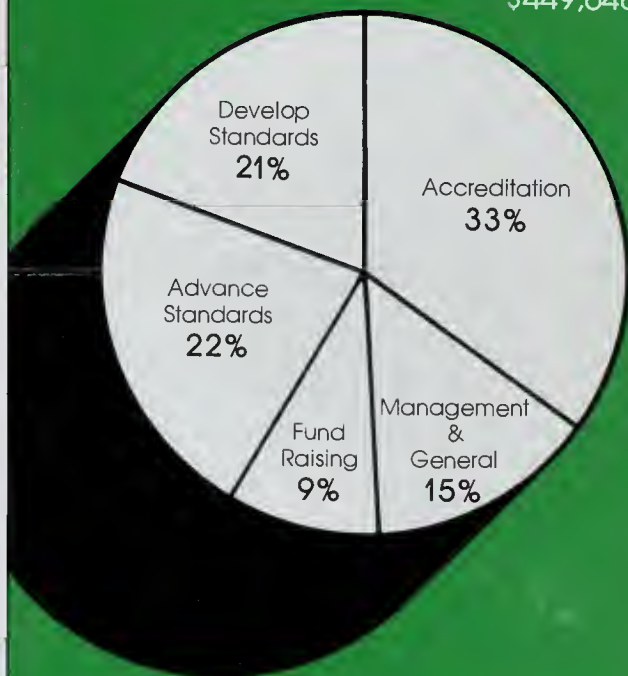
As of July 1, 1981, the Council changed its method of accounting for compensated absences as required by the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 43 and restated its financial statements for the years ended June 30, 1981 and 1980. Under the new method, contractually obligated liabilities for compensated absences are accrued as expense during the periods earned as opposed to being charged to expense when paid. The excess of support and revenue over expenses for the year ended June 30, 1981 was reduced by \$30. The current unrestricted Fund balance at June 30, 1980 was reduced by \$14,760 due to this accounting change.

Summary of Income and Expenses

Income
\$498,556



Expenses
\$449,648



Directory of Volunteers

Board of Directors 1981-82

Arthur L. Brandon
President Emeritus

Otis H. Stephens
President

Morton Pepper
First Vice President

Huntington Harris
Second Vice President

Raymond A. Kempf
Third Vice President

Evelyn G. Ullman
Secretary

Peter W. Connelly
Treasurer

Delbert K. Aman
Jack W. Birch
Nancy W. Bryant
Joseph E. Champagne
Arthur E. Copeland
Charles T. Cozier
Owen R. Davison
Adrian J. DeBlaey
Jeptha V. Greer
James S. Jeffers
Ruth Kaarlela
Thomas G. Kahn
Joseph J. Larkin
Armand P. Leco

Grant Mack
James D. McComas
Robert L. McLean
Vernon Metcalf
Oral O. Miller
Jerry R. Monroe
Gerald W. Mundy
James R. Olsen
Daniel D. Robinson
LeRoy F. Saunders
Ellsworth L. Sharpe
A. Therese Snyder
George E. Stocking
Dean W. Tuttle
Richard G. Umsted
McAllister C. Upshaw

Presidents Council

(Past Presidents)

Arthur L. Brandon 1967-72
Daniel D. Robinson 1973-75
Louis H. Rives, Jr. 1975-79

Commission on Accreditation

James D. McComas, *Chairman*
Delbert Aman
Nancy W. Bryant
Jeffrey P. Hantover
Marie Kovacs
J. Scott Marshall
George J. Mertz

Gerald W. Mundy
Granger Ricks
Louis H. Rives, Jr.
M. C. Van de Workeen

Commission on Standards

Owen R. Davison, *Chairman*
Charles B. Boyer
James S. Jeffers
Fred W. McDonald
Robert T. McLean
John R. Proffitt
Ferne K. Roberts
Wesley D. Sprague
Barbara Tate

Commission on Advancement of Standards

Daniel D. Robinson, *Chairman*
William T. Coppage
Roy Kumpe
Joseph J. Larkin
Oral O. Miller
Ray Miller
C. Owen Pollard
LeRoy F. Saunders
David L. Schnair
Evelyn G. Ullman
Richard G. Umsted
J. Max Woolly

How you can help

There are many ways you can help assure that the National Accreditation Council will continue to thrive now and in the years ahead. You might wish to make a tax-deductible contribution on an annual basis. We suggest that you also consider other ways of expressing your support.

A thoughtful way to celebrate a happy occasion is to make a gift to NAC. Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births — all these occasions take on even more meaning when coupled with assurance that blind people will receive quality services. Many persons also have paid their respects to deceased loved ones and friends by making memorial gifts to NAC. All such gifts are appropriately acknowledged.

We deeply appreciate the support received from donors who have remembered NAC's work in their wills. For persons wishing to make bequests to NAC, we suggest the following statement for inclusion in wills: "I give and bequeath to the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located in New York, N.Y., the sum of \$_____ to be used by the Council's Board as deemed advisable within the corporate powers of such Council."

NAC thanks the American Foundation for the Blind

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is well known as the organization for which Helen Keller worked during most of her lifetime. It promotes the development of high quality education, rehabilitation, and social welfare services for blind and visually handicapped children and adults and serves as the national clearinghouse for information about blindness.

As part of its quest for quality services, AFB paved the way for the creation in the 1960's of the National Accreditation Council. Since then, AFB has been a staunch champion of standards and accreditation, and it has continued to provide NAC with generous professional expertise and financial support. To commemorate NAC's first fifteen years, AFB is engaged in a year-long series of public activities to promote NAC.

Recently, AFB's executive director, William F. Gallagher, issued this statement:

"At the center of any quest for improved and expanded professionalism are the co-equal principles of standards for quality service and the recognition of such standards through the accreditation process. I therefore take this opportunity to call to your attention the fact that 1982 marks the 15th anniversary of the National Accreditation Council (NAC). Over the past decade and one half, NAC has weathered some turbulent times and has still managed to make a significant and positive impact on the quality of service programs available to blind and visually impaired Americans.

"As we enter the period of the 'new federalism,' the one positive factor which I see emerging is the increased need to take a closer look at the quality of our services and the effectiveness of our delivery systems. It is only through such self-scrutiny that we will be able to build an effective case in qualifying for what federal support remains, as well as for the support of the private sector in compensating for government cutbacks. I believe the best way to achieve this is through initiation of the self-study process and ultimate application for accreditation through NAC.

"The future of blind and visually impaired Americans in the United States is dependent on the survival and expansion of our service delivery system. I believe we can survive and indeed flourish in the 1980s, if we remain steadfast in our adherence to the highest standards of quality within the blindness system. I therefore ask you both as individuals and representatives of agencies, to join with the Foundation not only in saluting NAC on its 15th Anniversary, but in reaffirming your commitment to increased professionalism through standards and accreditation."

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge AFB for its outstanding commitment to quality services, and to say, once again, thank you.



National Accreditation Council
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79 Madison Avenue / New York, N.Y. 10016 / (212) 683-8581